



- [News](#)
  - [UK News](#)
  - [World News](#)
  - [Celebrity](#)
  - [Tech](#)
  - [Business](#)
- [Sport](#)
  - [Commonwealth Games](#)
  - [Football](#)
  - [Boxing](#)
  - [Athletics](#)
  - [Tennis](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
  - [Fashion & Beauty](#)
  - [Food](#)
  - [Health & Wellbeing](#)
  - [Relationships](#)
  - [Travel](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
  - [Arts & Culture](#)
  - [Books](#)
  - [Film](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [TV](#)
- [Competitions](#)

- [Opinion](#)
  - [Comment](#)
- [Faith](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [News](#)
- [Black British Voices](#)
  - [News](#)
  - [Insight](#)
  - [Opinion](#)
  - [Interviews](#)
- [Video](#)
  - [Interviews](#)
  - [Podcasts](#)
  - [Voxpops](#)
- [Publications](#)
  - [Careers](#)
  - [Weddings](#)
  - [Food & Restaurant Guide](#)
  - [Traveller](#)
  - [Family Matters](#)
- [Jobs](#)

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- Salary Range: -
- Organisation: City of London
- Sector:

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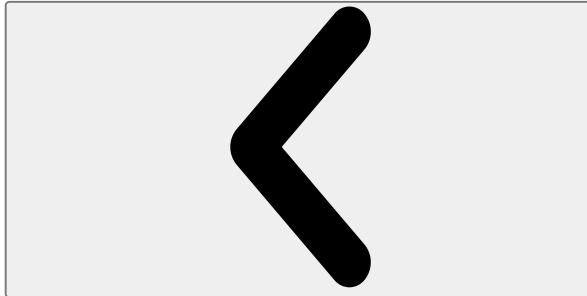
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- Organisation: UNICEF
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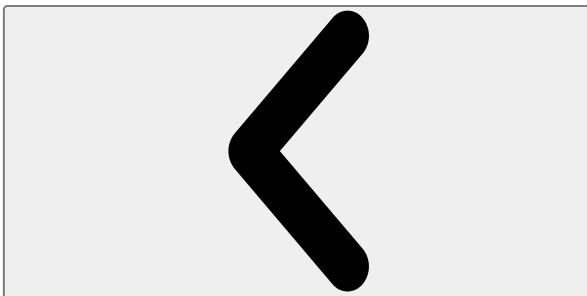
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- Salary Range: -
- Organisation: UNICEF
- Sector:
  - [Careers News and Advice](#)
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  - [UK News](#)
  - [World News](#)
  - [Celebrity](#)
  - [Tech](#)
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- [Commonwealth Games](#)
- [Football](#)
- [Boxing](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [Tennis](#)



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  - [Fashion & Beauty](#)
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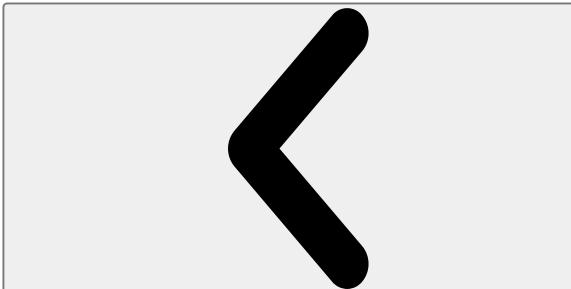
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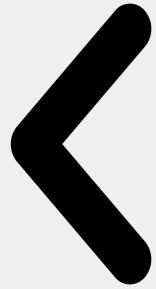


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  - [Insight](#)
  - [Opinion](#)
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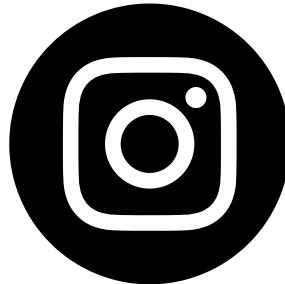


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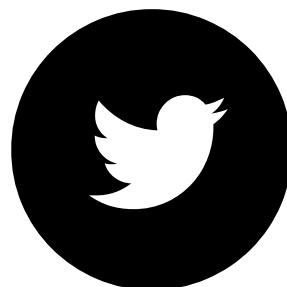


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28th September 2023

Written by: [Sinai Fleary](#)



## **Young Black Britons do not see Britain as their permanent home**

Blaxit trend continues amid cost of living crisis and systemic racism, according to the new Black British Voices study by The Voice



HOME: More Black Brits see a better future away from Britain

Over a third of Black Britons do not see Britain as their permanent home and desire to live elsewhere in the future, according to the findings of a new survey.

Polling from the Black British Voices (BBV) project shows even though 45 percent of young respondents said they do see Britain as their permanent home, this was closely followed by 39 percent who expressed a desire to live elsewhere.

**Read the full report [here](#)**

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For those who have already left the United Kingdom to build a new life ‘back home’ in The Caribbean or Africa, they say the findings suggest a new generation of Black Brits are not going to “stay and suck it up” in Britain anymore.

The idea of returning to Africa is not a new phenomenon. In 1919, Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican Black nationalist and Pan-Africanist, advocated for Black people to physically return to the African continent. He founded the Black Star Line, and purchased two ships to provide transportation for those wanting to return.

Almost three decades later in 1948, Ethiopia’s Emperor Haile Selassie donated land in Shashamane, to members of the Rastafari movement in Jamaica and other African-Caribbean people wishing to settle in Ethiopia.



ZOE SMITH: ‘A better chance of being treated better’

Speaking to *The Voice* from Grenada, Zoe Smith, said the pandemic and social media has shifted the mindset of young people who realise they have alternatives.

She said: “Rather than feeling like they have to stay in the UK and suck it up, they are more aware that they have options.

“They will use the power of their passport – whether it is a UK passport or a diaspora passport – and choose somewhere where they have a better chance of being treated better.”

Smith said the rise in remote working due to Covid-19 pandemic may also be influencing young people’s future decisions, as they realise “they no longer have to be in an office” but can work anywhere in the world.

Having moved to Grenada in July 2021 because the British education system continuously failed her son, she said more Black families will leave if there is not “massive structural change.”

Other findings from the survey paint a bleak picture, with an overwhelming 90 percent of the young respondents saying they expect to experience some sort of racial prejudice during adulthood while living in the UK.

Smith commented: “It would be nice to say the findings make me feel shock or horror, but I’m Black I was born in the UK, so I know fully well what the experience is like.”

She added: “The fact that the younger generation know that they don’t have to stay and take it, is perhaps a lesson to the older folks. How long are we going to bang our heads against a brick wall?”

Smith said the next Government needs to do more than just “performative” gestures otherwise we will continue to see more young Black people feel disconnected with those who lead the country.



JULIET RYAN with the president of The Gambia, Adama Barrow

The writer from Watford, started a YouTube series called [The Exodus Collective](#) – which shares stories from those in the Black community, who made their ‘Blaxit’ – meaning moving to different parts of the Caribbean and Africa to find a sense of peace.

She said initially she thought the trend was just a “blip” but said three years on, the movement is still growing and is a sign the UK is failing Black families.

She added: "When I started in 2020, it was a response to the murder of George Floyd and racism being a main driving factor.

"But in the years that have followed, the cost of living, the insanity that is going on in the Conservative government, there's so many factors that are making people feel the UK is not the best place to be if you are invested in a sustainable future.

"People who are talented, able and ambitious are wanting to go to countries where they can fulfil their dreams rather than go up against an old and complicated system."

Professor Shawn-Naphtali Sobers, is a professor in Cultural Interdisciplinary Practice at the University of the West of England.

He said the Rastafari community had been championing repatriation for decades.

"Rastafari has always talked about the need for repatriation to the motherland, as the safe haven for the global peoples of the Black diaspora.

"It is clear that Rastafari had this prophetic vision, which this research shows to clearly be still relevant today, but it has to be said, this is not through the lack of trying, to try and build integrated and peaceful lives in what Rastafari call Babylon.



VISIONARY: Hon Marcus Mosiah Garvey

“Evidently, the younger generations still feel the sense of rejection and are essentially proving the Rastafari prophecy to be correct.”

Professor Sobers added many Black British people born in Britain in the 1960s and 70s had a challenging relationship as seeing themselves as British and wanting to permanently live here due to “witnessing the hostility and racism shown to us by the services of the British state, whether that be in education, health, the justice system and all other areas of British society.”

He said he is saddened to see feelings of “disconnect” still present in younger generations in 2023.

Juliet Ryan, has lived in The Gambia for four years, and moved from the UK after her sons were subjected to vile racial abuse at school.

In 2018, her 15-year-old son was celebrating the last day of school in Essex.

Students wrote farewell messages on his shirt, but when he arrived home his mother saw there were some racist slurs, including the N word, written on her son's uniform. She realised "enough was enough".

While working in Britain, Ryan says she was also treated differently and even ended up at employment tribunals.

Ryan said the fact that almost 40 percent of young Black people want to live somewhere else in the future shows there is still a deep "dissatisfaction" and a feeling of "displacement" and "non belonging" for some Black people in Britain – a feeling she sadly knows very well.

Speaking from The Gambia, she said: "I grew up in racist England and that is what I call it, because that is exactly what it was.

"I didn't feel like I belonged from when I was a child, and once I started to socialise I definitely felt like I was othered. When I saw it now happening to my own children, it bothered me as their mother."

Ryan is the founder of Blaxit – a leading online platform that helps those in the diaspora resettle in The Gambia, in West Africa.



#### GUILTY AS CHARGED: The UK

Those who once lived in England, but have moved to the Caribbean are encouraging others to do the same.

Barbara Blake Hannah was born and raised in Jamaica, but later moved to England to work as a film extra.

She settled in Notting Hill, in west London, and continued her journalism career.

Ms Blake Hannah made history in 1968, when she made her TV debut as the UK's first Black TV reporter.

But her blossoming career was cruelly cut short when she was sacked and driven out of her job because some viewers could not accept seeing a Black reporter on British television.

Several angry phone calls from viewers were made with some saying “get that N\*\*\*\*\* off the TV screen”.

After being dismissed, Blake Hannah was asked to do PR for the first ever Jamaican feature film *The Harder They Come*.

It sparked a deeper calling for her to return to the Caribbean and find out more about the Rastafari movement and Reggae music – which were also heavily featured in the film.

She left Britain decades ago and never looked back.

Blake Hannah wants Jamaicans in the diaspora to seriously consider returning using their skills and experience to help the next generation in Jamaica.

Speaking to *The Voice* from Jamaica, she said: “My position always is, come and help build Jamaica.

“The Windrush generation helped rebuild Britain. Let’s do a Windrush-in-reverse and help make our paradise greater.”

Since her return, Blake Hannah has had a glittering career and has worked in the Jamaican film industry and was also the first Rastafarian to have been appointed Opposition Senator in Jamaican parliament in 1984.

She is currently the cultural consultant for the Ministry of Culture and is an adviser on Rastafari matters.

She added: “We need all the help we can get and there is no racism here to stunt children’s spirits.”

For the older generation, who have already made the leap away from “oppressive Britain”, it is clear have split feelings about the BBV findings.

On the one hand, they welcome the fact that young Black Brits see their future in diaspora countries where they may get more opportunities and less racism. On the other hand, they remain frustrated that systemic racism in Britain continues to be all-pervasive.

It is clear that without far reaching change in Britain, another generation will look for a place called ‘home’ outside of where they were born and grown up.

## Comments Form

### 3 Comments

1. Posted on 29th September 2023 | Chaka Artwell

England, and Europe, at their imperial height, were native homogeneous, Caucasian, Catholic, and Protestant heritage nations.

The ancient African Nile Valley Pharaonic civilisation; a civilisation which gave the world writing; advanced mathematics, astronomy, and the pyramids, were homogeneous African people-with Afro-hair, and African facial features.

“Multi-Culturalism,” which is a darling of the Labour, and the liberal Marxist inspired, political Left, is the road to ethnic cultural ruin; and youthful psychological confusion and delinquency.

We all need to return to our ancient ethnic place of origins; as “multi-culturalism,” has been proved to be a failure.

[Reply](#)

2. Posted on 30th September 2023 | Don D

Big up Juliette for starting Blaxit and encouraging others to do the same. Rebuild Africa even greater.

[Reply](#)

3. Posted on 1st October 2023 | Adegboyega Akinlabi

I saw this playing back face if not checked and encourage the younger active generation to reconsider going back to the root or Homelands where freedom is Priceless rather than being is a Controlled Enslaved Environment. I had to make sure train my kids in 9ja!!!!!! For the fear of Loose them and be infested with Free Non-Clutural British System Upbringing that lacks respect for Parental Guidance.Out Shame and Low Self-esteem a lot the Older generation Britain and can't come back home. They die in pain and depression that they failed the people back Home. What a waste of Life and they being buried like a NOBODY. IT is happening all over Europe and America. It is a continuous controlled Salve-Master plans for making the Black's Race remains under and see realities of Today's Opportunities and Sending Negative News to destroy and discourage your positive minded generation to their HomeLands a no go areas again. Hmmmmmm!!!! Very soon they be tag ” The Lost Generation of The Black Race”

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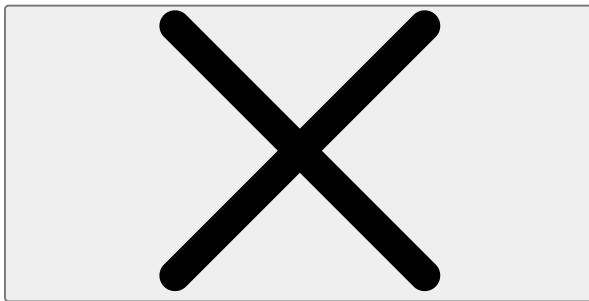
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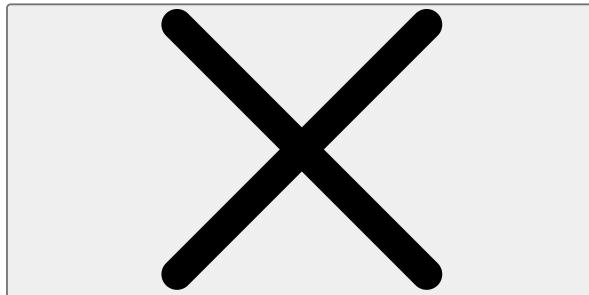


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### Dawn Butler: 'The far-right is getting organised. And so are we'

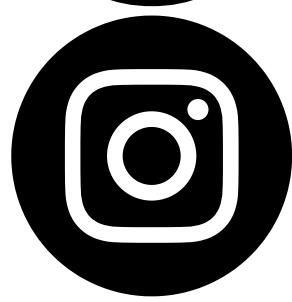
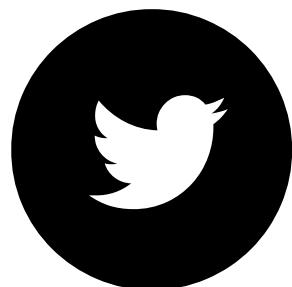
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